

### DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE SILENCED

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have a long to-do list before you can leave for the summer recess: we have got to pass legislation to prevent gun violence; we have got to pass legislation to fight the spread of Zika; we have got to pass legislation to address the Flint water crisis and to fund the opioid treatment plans. The clock is ticking—tick, tick, tick—and none of these will get done because you are getting ready for the longest summer recess in at least 60 years without addressing the very pressing issues that Americans really care about.

Republicans' inaction will not prevent Democrats from reminding the entire American Republic that we have got to do the right thing. During the next 7 weeks, we will continue to demand a vote on commonsense measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. Hashtag, there are too many damned guns in America today.

□ 1600

### CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY THEODORE DUNCAN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of so many young African American males who are fearful for their lives, who believe that America doesn't realize the exemplary lives that they each live.

I also rise to give an example of one African American male who gives the Virgin Islands tremendous pride today. I am here to honor Virgin Islands native and the greatest power forward of all time, Timothy Theodore Duncan, on his retirement from the National Basketball Association.

Throughout his storied 19-year career, Tim Duncan has won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award, five NBA championship titles, three NBA Final MVP awards, two NBA Most Valuable Player awards, and has earned the distinction of all-time leading scorer for his San Antonio Spurs.

The 15-time NBA All Star is an inspiration to many young Virgin Islanders and, indeed, Americans all over this country and is an integral figure in his own community for his efforts toward promoting interscholastic athletics and education. He is an exemplary gentleman, unselfish on and off the court.

The Virgin Islands community thanks him for his 19-year career in the NBA. We want to show him as an example of what can happen if one individual like himself can be on a street safely here in the United States, the great things that they can do.

### THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hard-working staff.

Over the past 6 years, I have had the honor and privilege to serve in this House of Representatives. At the end of this term, my time of service as a Member in this body will come to a close, as I honor my self-imposed term-limit pledge.

As I reflect on my congressional service, there has been a constant throughout this time. The first is my wonderful family. And the second is my incredible, selfless staff who have worked with me to serve the good people of our district.

We have a saying in our office, that we only hire people who love people. This may sound simple, but it is amazing, the difference it can make when you have a team of people dedicated to helping others. Every day, they exhibit compassion, kindness, patience, and really take the time to listen to our constituents.

For some of my staff, that was their first job out of college. More than a few started as an intern with us. For others, this job was a return from retirement, yet another chapter in a lifetime of service to this great Nation.

So many of our staff have stayed the entire 6 years, a loyalty for which I am deeply grateful. And those who have moved on have continued to excel, with achievements of which I am very proud. A couple are now on their well-deserved retirement.

When we close out our term, my team will have left a legacy of real, meaningful service to the people of New York and to this Nation. Their accomplishments are far too numerous to name, but I just want to highlight a very small sampling of the work they have accomplished.

Here in the House, we have been part of the effort to ensure our Armed Forces, our servicemen and -women, have the resources and support they need for the missions we ask of them. We have fought tireless battles to help all of our veterans, including our Blue Water Navy veterans who have been left out of Agent Orange coverage.

We have helped improve mental health care and made significant progress combating the scourge of opiate addiction that is devastating our communities. We have helped both our family farms and our small businesses and improved health care for seniors.

We passed the first bill that addresses Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses. And we fought to empower students and teachers and to ensure our students weren't burdened with onerous, high-stakes testing in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, in our district, when we were hit with the devastating storms—Hurricanes Irene, Lee, and Sandy—my staff joined me on the front lines, from helping residents in the immediate aftermath of the storms to ensuring they received the assistance they needed to recover over the following years. We were committed to ensuring every community came back stronger than they were the day before the storm.

And we have continued other efforts. We have helped expand broadband access, and we have helped with conservation efforts. We have helped fix our roads and bridges and advocated for a countless number of grants to be awarded to our local businesses, nonprofits, fire departments, and the like.

My staff has also completed over 7,000 cases for my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you we have had so many constituents come up to my wife, Mary Jo, and I and tell us about the work that our staff has done that, in many cases, helped change their lives.

They are exceptional people, one and all. They are model public servants. I want to close with reading their names into our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for this day so that they get a small piece of the recognition they so richly deserve.

Before I do, Mr. Speaker, I also want to say thank you to each and every one of them and their families. Our communities are strong and our Nation is better because of their service.

Mr. Speaker, the members of Team Gibson, in alphabetical order: Robert Allard; Allison Argust; Sergeant First Class Dennis Bartow, U.S. Army National Guard; Katherine Better; Jeffrey Bishop; Steven Bulger, my district director; Paula Brown; Sergeant First Class (Retired) George Christian, U.S. Army National Guard; Nicholas Czajka; Sergeant First Class (Retired) Kathy Fallon, U.S. Army National Guard; Todd Felter; Remy Fortin; Brad Gentile; Nathan Gil; William Gonzales, New York State Trooper, retired; James Haggerty, United States Marine Corps, Korean war; Ridge Harris; Patricia Hohmann; Colonel Stephen Ledbetter, U.S. Army; Joseph Levi, a wounded Army combat veteran; Shay Mason; Major Patrick McGuigan, U.S. Army; Ann Mueller; Pdraic O'Brien, now a New York State Trooper; Lieutenant Colonel Curt Owens, United States Army Reserves; Barbara Palmer; Megan Paulsen; Corinne Boughton Penston; Duane Postupak; Patricia Raucci; Peter Ryan; Brian Scarlett; Major Matthew Schardt, U.S. Army; Christine Schiff; Rebecca Shaw; Matthew Sheehy; Steven Stallmer; Theodore Stephan; Major Ricardo Turner, U.S. Army; Stephanie Valle, my chief of staff; Carol Waller; Mark Westcott; Anthony Zampelli; and Patrick Ziegler.

May God bless them all.

I yield back the balance of my time.